

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the Examiner Interview of July 12, 2005 and carefully considering this application.

Drawings

Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on November 6, 2001. Applicant hereby submits a replacement drawing sheet for Figures 1 and 9, and asks that the replacement drawing sheets be accepted by the Examiner. Figure 1 has been modified to remove references to portions of the drawings and conform to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. Figure 9 has been modified to correct a typographical error. No new subject matter has been added by way of the replacement of the drawing sheets.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 7-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 15, and 16 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Dependent claim 17 has been added by this reply. Support for dependent claim 17 may be found, for example, in paragraph [0039] of the specification. No new subject matter has been added by the addition of claim 17.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1, 15, and 16 has been amended consistent with discussions during the interview dated July 12, 2005, to include the limitation "wherein a node associated with the backend in the directory server mapping tree comprises a state indicating availability of the backend". Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in paragraph [0033] and paragraph [0039] of the specification. No new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Rejections under 37 C.F.R. 102

Claims 7-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,629,132 (“Ganguly”). To the extent this rejection applies to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. With respect to amended independent claims 1, 15, and 16, the Examiner asserts that Ganguly teaches a node in a directory server mapping tree comprising a state. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, the *only* tree structure which Ganguly discloses is a basic directory tree. The proxy cache discussed in Ganguly is merely a table of entries. Nodes in the directory tree disclosed by Ganguly do not even suggest having states as nodes in the Directory Server mapping tree as recited in the claims of the present invention. In fact, the directory tree would have no reason to include states because it is merely a standard directory tree for storing directory entries.

Further, nodes in the directory tree disclosed by Ganguly do not have states indicating availability of the backend. Specifically, because the nodes taught by Ganguly themselves are stored on the backend, there would be no reason to have the nodes store a state that indicates whether the backend is available.

In contrast to Ganguly which merely describes a basic directory tree, the present invention as recited in the claims teaches both a Directory Server Mapping Tree with nodes in the Directory Server Mapping Tree having states where the states indicate the availability of a backend to the Directory Server.

In view of the above, it is clear that Ganguly fails to support the rejection of amended independent claims 7, 15, and 16. Dependent claims 8, 9, and 11-14 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claim

Dependent claim 17 has been added with this response. As shown above, Ganguly does not support the rejection of claim 1. Thus, Ganguly does support the rejection of claim 17, which is dependent on claim 1.

Furthermore, Ganguly does not teach or suggest a node with a backend state, a disabled state, referral state, or a referral on update state. Specifically, Ganguly is silent with respect to a backend state, disabled state, referral state, or a referral on update state as recited in the claims of the present invention.

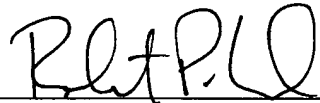
In view of the above, Ganguly may not be used to support a rejection of new claim 17. Accordingly, new claim 17 is allowable over Ganguly.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 13220/003001; P5838).

Dated: August 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Robert P. Lord
Registration No.: 46,479
OSHA • LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments: Two replacement sheets

102253_2.DOC

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant requests that the Examiner replace Figures 1 and 9 as originally filed with the enclosed replacement sheets of drawings, which includes Figures 1 and 9. In Figure 1, some of the reference numbers have been removed to conform with the text of the specification as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. Furthermore, the sub-boxes of Portal Services, Communication Services, and Web, Application and Integration Services, have been removed in order to clarify the invention. In Figure 9, the misspelling of “matching” has been corrected in Step 104.

Attachments: Two replacement sheets